

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include FIGS. 1 and 2. These sheets are formal versions of the figures which were filed as informal drawings. These replacement sheets, which include FIGS. 1 and 2 replace the original sheets including these same figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets for Formal Drawings

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 12 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the case.

Submission of Formal Drawings

Applicant has concurrently filed Formal Drawings as Replacement Sheets for the originally filed informal drawings.

Objection to Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 2-4 and 12-20 because claims 2, 4, 13 and 16 referred to multiple “receivers” rather than multiple “tuners.” These claims have been amended to make this change. Withdrawal of this objection, therefore, is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims

The Office Action rejected the pending claims over U.S. 6,118,498 (Reitmeier) alone and in combination with other references. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and has amended the claims to clarify the claimed subject matter

As with Reitmeier, the claimed invention is directed to improving the response time when a user changes channels. As such, predictive channel selection is utilized. However, unlike Reitmeier, the claimed invention is also directed to analyzing the contents of the transport streams that are available to be tuned. In particular, the claimed invention requires that one or more additional transport streams be selected “... based at least in part upon which predicted program channels are multiplexed together in the transport streams such that the selected transport streams provide a desirable combination of multiplexed program channels with respect to the predicted program channels.” This feature is not taught or suggested by Reitmeier or the other references relied upon in the Office Action.

As discussed in the Background of the current Application, Reitmeier discloses “predicting one or more channels that a user is likely to move to next and then tuning, demodulating and decoding these predicted channels.” [Application, pages 2-3.] As shown in Reitmeier, the predicted channels are the most recently used, next, next +1, prior, prior -1, and four user favorites. [Reitmeier, col. 7, TABLE 1.] Reitmeier runs a scanning routine that stores a copy of the I-frame for each of these channels. [Reitmeier, col. 9. lns. 1-14.] As it goes through the list in TABLE 1, therefore, Reitmeier must tune the transport stream containing the channel, demodulate the transport stream, decode the channel, and store the next I-frame for that channel, before moving on to the next channel in the list. Thus, Reitmeier does not determine or care which of the channels in its list are included in the same transport stream or if they are all in different transport streams. As such, it is possible that Reitmeier would have to tune twelve different transport streams in order to decode the twelve channels in its scan list. This process, therefore, could be cumbersome and slow.

Although the present invention does use predictive channel selection, it also analyzes which channels are multiplexed together at any given time to determine which transport streams provide a desirable combination of multiplexed channels in order to determine which transport stream to tune and demodulate and which channels to decode. [See Application, Summary.] As such, the present invention provides a very efficient process for utilizing additional tuners to improve response time in changing to new channels. This is even more so because broadcasters typically analyze the current data flow requirements of its programs and attempt to optimize its transport streams by adjusting which channels are multiplexed with which other channels. Thus, program channels are not always combined within the same transport streams over time. By determining which program channels are in fact multiplexed together in the transport streams, the present invention can better select the additional transport streams to tune that will give it a good chance of having the next selected channel.

Applicant respectfully asserts, therefore, that Reitmeier, whether considered alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, Reitmeier does not teach or suggest selecting one or more additional transport streams “... based at least in part upon

which predicted program channels are multiplexed together in the transport streams such that the selected transport streams provide a desirable combination of multiplexed program channels with respect to the predicted program channels." Withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Peterman
Reg. No. 37,908
Attorney for Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 347-1611
FAX: (512) 347-1615